The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

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## "LABOR SHORTAGE" IS WOLF CRY; LOW-WAGE BOSSES WANT MEXICANS

Washington, April 17.—The labor shortage cry in the southwest is not founded on facts, and Mexicans are being imported by cheap labor employers in defiance of immigration laws.

The above summarizes replies to A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison from scores of trade union officials in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and other states, who were asked to wire information regarding the labor situation. In every instance there is a surplus of labor. The following are a sample of the telegrams forwarded to the A. F. of L. official:

Phoenix, Ariz.—Importing of Mexican labor into Salt river valley has lowered wages of common labor to a point where Americans cannot compete and cannot maintain American standard of living. On cotton ranches they are in a state of peonage and when they escape from the ranches drift into towns and become active competitors of American labor. In lines other than farming the practice is a growing menace to living conditions in Arizona. Absolutely no shortage of labor here.

Brownwood, Texas—There is no shortage of labor in Texas. Need no emigration from Mexico. Lots of men and women out of work.

Houston, Texas—5,000 American citizens are now idle on account of immigration of Mexican labor into our city.

Bakersfield, Cal.—No shortage of labor in this district. Busiest oil field in world. Sufficient labor to handle all classes of work when living wages are paid.

Clifton, New Mexico—There is a surplus of Mexican labor in this county, despite the voting of over $500,000 for public work to give employment during depression in copper industry. I personally recruited and sent over 100 cotton pickers to Salt river valley last fall and could have sent more had they paid living wages, but they could secure pickers from Old Mexico for less. It is not so much a shortage of labor to do the work as it is inadequate wages offered. Hope you can prevent admission of more of this labor until there is a real shortage. Our state federation has been working on this for three months.

Port Arthur, Texas—No shortage of labor of any kind in this vicinity. Men of all crafts being laid off every day. Mexicans being imported to take their places.

San Mateo, Cal.—No shortage of labor in this district.

Alanosa, Col.—No shortage of labor in this vicinity.

Ely, Nev.—Copper industries has laid off 200 men here. No surplus of labor.

Miami, Ariz.—There is a very large number of Mexican laborers in the Globe-Miami copper district. About 70 per cent of these are unemployed; nothing to indicate that these conditions will change soon.

Napa, Cal.—No labor shortage in this vicinity. Napa county farm bureau reports today more help available than could be placed past two months.

Clovis, New Mexico—We are not short of labor, as there are a number of white people wanting work and quite a number of Mexicans who seem to be idle.

Albuquerque, New Mexico — No shortage of labor in New Mexico.

Fort Worth, Texas—No shortage of labor in vicinity of Fort Worth. Using Mexican labor in this section to displace white labor.

Salida, Col.—No shortage of common labor in this vicinity; surplus.

## CARELESS HANDLING CAUSES FOOD WASTE

Washington, April 17.—The men who advise industrial workers and farmers to produce more will find large opportunities for their genius in a report on marketing issued by the United States federal trade commission.

It is shown how losses accumulate in the careless and useless handling of foods, in the inefficient packing and transporting to markets, through scattered railway terminals, from markets badly located and poorly equipped, and because of inadequate storage and delivery facilities.

The report states that careless handling, improperly equipped cars, delays in moving and exposure while foods are in railway transit to market, cause large and unnecessary losses and expenses to dealers and shippers; that railway terminals are usually scattered, that they are not properly equipped with cold, heated and dry storage to prevent deterioration before perishables can be removed, and that often they lack facilities for the quick and safe handling of foods.

"Buildings and other facilities for the marketing of in the vast majority of wholesale receiving centers," it is stated, "are entirely inadequate, are generally badly located with reference to terminals, storage and retailers, are often congested, and are invariably ill-adapted in construction and arrangement to economical marketing.

"As a consequent of the location of markets with reference to terminals, storage and retailers, a large amount of carting is necessary. Congested and poorly paved streets, long distances, ill-equipped conveyances all make for useless expense and large losses of foods through deterioration."

### GAINS IN NEW YORK.

New York, April 17.—Russian and Turkish bath employes have organized and established the nine-hour day, the 54-hour week and a minimum wage. The agreement calls for union recognition and permission to have a steward in each establishment to look after the interests of the union, which now numbers more than 290 out of a possible 300 workers in this calling. Prior to organization these employes depended upon tips.

After a two-weeks' strike ivory button workers at Maspeth, Long Island, raised wages 10 per cent and secured recognition of shop committees.

Public school and building cleaners employed by the city have profited by organization. Wages for men have been raised from $768 a year to $900, and for women from $624 a year to $720. The increases date back to the first of the year.

A 27 per cent wage increase and the work week reduced from 49½ to 44 hours has been reported by organized basket makers. Piece work is eliminated.

### TO AID CRIPPLES.

Washington, April 17. — Both branches of congress have passed the vocational rehabilitation bill which is intended to aid persons disabled in industry or otherwise and to assist them in their return to civil employment. The federal board for vocational education will have charge of the plan and will co-operate with the various states. While the senate and house are agreed on the principle of the bill there are differences as to details and these will be adjusted in conference. The bill marks a new departure in national legislation.

### OPPOSE MINIMUM WAGE.

Olympia, Wash., April 17.—Hotel keepers in this state are up in arms over a women's $18 weekly minimum wage that has been recommended by a conference created by the state industrial welfare commission.

An attorney for the hotel men said this award would permit the women to live in luxury. Defenders of the award proved by statistics that even $18 is not sufficient to maintain a woman in reasonable comfort.

### SWITCHMEN UNITE.

N. Y., April 17.—The Switchmen's Union of North America has chartered locals in the following cities during the last month: Pendleton and Huntington, Ore.; Muskogee, Okla.; Meridian, Miss., and Aberdeen, S. D.

### METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Knoxville, Tenn., April 17.—Organized metal workers have raised wages. The new scale includes the eight-hour day.

## STRIKE "VOLUNTEERS" PRODUCE LITTLE COAL

Kansas City, Mo., April 17.—At the convention of the United Mine Workers, district No. 14, Kansas delegates enlivened the proceedings with the story of Governor Allen's "volunteer" army that was intended to produce coal last fall, when the nation-wide coal strike was on.

Governor Allen first called on the union coal miners to break their own strike, and when this failed he called for volunteers. About 1,000 responded. Most of the volunteers were employed about three weeks, and were guarded by 2,000 soldiers. The state executive knew enough about the dangers of digging coal in deep mines, for he put his army at the strip, or surface mines, where a man can dig some coal without being a miner.

The total of Governor Allen's venture as a miner was 8,000 tons in three weeks. President Howat, of district No. 14, compared this three weeks' output with mines in Illinois where 8,000 tons is produced in one day.

The cost of producing this Kansas coal was enormous and will probably be paid by the state, together with additional costs because of the condition in which the mines were left by the amateurs. Steam shovels and other machinery were destroyed. Many of the volunteers contracted colds that in some cases developed serious illness.

All these features of the army were overlooked by the governor's publicity agents, who pictured the state executive as a national benefactor.

### HOW ABOUT PATRIOTISM?

Washington, April 17.—The United States shipping board has called on two steel trust subsidiaries to rescind an order that would virtually boycott American ships and benefit vessels of Great Britain and Japan.

The offending concerns are the United States steel products company and the Illinois steel corporation. These concerns have ignored a law regulating tonnage to the Pacific coast through the Panama canal.

Admiral Benson, chairman of the United States shipping board, forwarded this tart telegram to the companies:

"Is it your purpose to discriminate against American vessels, inclusive of shipping board ships, in favor of foreign ships, or will you, under the circumstances, withdraw the instructions? Please reply by wire."

In view of the cry for an American merchant marine, the attitude of the companies is interesting.

### AMEND RETIREMENT BILL.

Washington, April 17.—A house committee has reported the Stirling-Lehlbach retirement bill, recently passed by the senate, with the age limit registered along lines originally intended. Opponents of the bill in the senate made the age 70 years before an employe can be retired. The house committee has made the age 62 for mechanics, city and rural letter carriers and post office clerks and 60 for railway postal clerks.

If the house accepts the age limits of its committee, the matter will be adjusted in conference of representatives of both branches of congress.

### WILL DROP LAW SUITS.

New York, April 17.—The national board of fire underwriters announce that fire companies have agreed to arbitrate disputes over the amount of liability each should pay in claims. The former expensive method of law suits will be abandoned, and a committee of arbitration will be appointed. The agreement does not affect the relations between the companies and policy holders.

### TO RELIEVE OIL SHORTAGE

Bakersfield, Cal., April 17.—The 15,000 organized oil workers in this state have notified the president that if the government will supply equipment the unionists will furnish all the necessary men to develop and operate government oil lands, thereby relieving the oil shortage.

### WANT LABOR PROBE.

Port Arthur, Texas, April 17.—Oil refinery workers have called on Secretary of Labor Wilson to investigate the large number of Mexican laborers that are being brought to this city in violation of immigration laws.

## *Organized Labor Answers Republican Questionnaire*

Washington, April 17.—A questionnaire that is being issued by the advisory committee on policies and platform of the Republican national committee has been answered by Samuel Gompers, Matthew Woll and Frank Morrison, platform committee, national non-partisan campaign of the A. F. of L.

The questionnaire is "on industrial relations and the problems of capital and labor" and includes 55 subjects, with sub-divisions.

Labor's answers are clear cut and are subject to but one meaning. Although the country has witnessed an unparalleled period of reaction following the armistice, the demand for "can't-strike" laws and other un-American legislation does not affect the trade unionists, who stand four-square for rights that are accorded other classes of citizens.

The trade unionists say welfare work, when administered by the employers, the tendency of which is to buy the submission of the workers, is utterly out of keeping with the American spirit. Profit sharing is placed in the same class, and it is stated if employers "can afford to pay bonuses, then let them do so in the form of a higher wage and better conditions rather than in the form of gratuities."

In answer to the question, "Should trade unions be incorporated, to sue and be sued?" the unionists answer, in part: "Trade unions are not formed for the accumulation of property, nor for the making of profits. Labor power is the inherent power of human beings to produce commodities for the sustenance of life. To suggest that this power and these qualities of the human race should be incorporated by law is to suggest a desperation on the part of employers which must be curbed for the very safety of society."

Question—"In the event of incorporation should the power of injunction be limited?"

Answer—"In this question the workers are asked to barter one evil for another. The workers are asked whether they prefer being struck on the left cheek to being struck on the right cheek. The trade union movement does not indulge in that kind of trading. It opposes all injustice. The character and integrity of the trade union movement should be better known than to permit of such an astounding suggestion."

Opposition to classifying trade unions as trusts is recorded and attention is called to the Clayton law declaration that "the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

The unionists say that when labor asks to be represented in industrial disputes by spokesmen of its own chosing it demands for itself no more than the same rights exercised by employers.

When asked "do you approve the general principles of the Kansas anti-strike law?" the unionists reply that these principles "are so anti-democratic as to be reprehensible in the extreme and repugnant to every American concept of justice, freedom and democracy."

The questionnaire again reverts to force as a solution for strikes and lockouts, and the unionists reply: "The difference between a strike and a lockout is this: The strike is a resort to the final argument by workers seeking to establish better conditions and higher concepts in industry. A lockout is a resort to the final argument in denial of those aspirations. The right to strike should be maintained, but there should never be occasion to use it."

Question—"What is the proper scope of injunction in labor disputes?"

Answer—"The injunction has no place in labor disputes. The use of the injunction in a democratic nation to restrain the aspirations of the working people for an extension of the horizon of democracy and for the enlargement of their opportunities is a strange contradiction. The injunction, like so much of the remainder of our legal structure, has come to us through a body of decrees and judge-made precedents upon precedents. The use of injunctions in labor disputes is to evade trial under law, destroy the presumption of innocence and deny the constitutional guarantee of trial by jury."

Regarding retirement, old age and other benefits, the unionists declare that "to speak of benefits for workers who are not paid a sufficient wage to make benefits unnecessary is to emphasize the irony of industrial injustice. The time has passed when industry can take from the workers the best efforts of their early years and discard them, worn out, broken down in middle age."

"The priciple of equal pay for equal work is correct and there should be no mystery about the method of making it effective."

Labor refuses to temporarily agree to work a nine-hour day. "Assuming that the above question is asked seriously," states the reply, "permit us to say that such an understanding would be intolerable." The unionists declare that if industry was properly organized it would obviate whatever necessity may appear for a long work day. Government statistics are printed to prove that wage increases do not equal living costs.

Question—"How can thrift be encouraged among wage earners?"

Answer (in part)—"There can be no great enthusiasm for thrift among wage earners until they have something with which to be thrifty. There must first be paid to the wage earner a wage adequate to maintain the American standard of living. Too much of American industry does not yet afford such a wage. Figures show that great masses of American workers are still endeavoring to overcome the advancing costs of living and that they are still far behind in the race. Arguments for thrift can make no appeal under such circumstances." The unionists suggest that a true national economy is possible in the industrial processes."

## LONG-HOUR EMPLOYERS CAUSE FRENCH STRIKE

Paris, France, April 17.—Employers are attempting to nullify the eight-hour law, passed by the French parliament, and nation-wide strikes are the result.

In analyzing these movements, J. Lapierre, assistant secretary of the General Confederation of Labor, said:

"Because of the continued increase in the cost of living, and the refusal of the employers to increase wages, workers in the coal, textile, metal, printing and other industries have been compelled to strike in order to secure wages which will enable them to support their families in decency.

"Employers have taken advantage of the increased cost of living to attempt to nullify the eight-hour day. Everywhere they have said to the workers: 'We admit that your wages are not sufficient. Our solution is for you to work additional hours.'

"The workers refused to work additional hours, and demanded a living wage for an eight-hour day. This demand and the employers' conspiracy to lengthen the working day explain the entire strike movement.

"Take the textile strike in the Roubaix region, where 150,000 workers are out. After a careful investigation the commission on the cost of living reported in that district a family of four persons—the parents and two children—cannot buy the necessaries of life for less than 8,600 francs a year ($1,700). The commission declares that the cost of these necessaries has increased 366 per cent since 1914. Wages, however, have not risen to any such degree, and the textile trust refuses to pay a living wage unless these employes work extra hours for the increase. This they have refused to do, and with a solidarity that is magnificent."

### RESCUE ENTOMBED MINERS.

Washington, April 17.—The rescue of entombed miners will be aided by the perfection of the geophone, a French listening device, invented during the war. The United States bureau of mines announces that through a series of remarkable tests of the geophone men have been able, not only to hear and locate sounds through the earth, but have actually understood talking through 50 feet of solid coal and have detected the human voice fully 150 feet away. An engineer of the bureau was able, through 300 feet of coal, to distinguish nine out of 10 different coal mining tools that were used at different times, so characteristic are the sounds.

In referring to the life-saving value of this device, the bureau says:

"Quite frequently miners are entombed in coal mines following explosions, and these men may be located quickly through the geophone. In metal mines, also, where men may be imprisoned behind falls or be barricaded in some part of the mine to which they have retreated in order to protect themselves from the fumes of a fire—these, too, may be rescued through prompt location."

### MACHINISTS WANT MORE.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 17.—More than 350 plants in this city have been requested to advance wages 25 per cent for machine shop workers by Machinists' lodge No. 330.

The request is based on what is known as the Buffalo award, announced by the secretary of war nearly two years ago.

Hamilton, Ontario, April 17.—Machinists employed by the Hamilton Bridge Works company have increased wages 15 per cent and reduced the work day from 10 hours to nine hours.

### GAINS BY STREET CAR MEN.

Cincinnati, April 17.—An arbitration board has ordered wages advanced for employes of the Cincinnati & Dayton Traction company. Rates are increased 5 and 10 cents an hour and working conditions are improved.

### ANTIS CAN'T STOP US.

Tulsa, Okla., April 17.—The anti-trade union movement of cheap labor employers in this city did not stop the Carpenters' union from raising wages $1 a day. These workers are strongly organized.

### GET $1 AN HOUR.

Memphis, Tenn., April 17.—A new rate of $1 an hour, with double time for overtime, are features of an agreement secured by the Electrical Workers' union.

### WIN THREE-DAYS' STRIKE.

Cincinnati, April 17.—After a three-days' strike organized granite cutters raised wages to $1 an hour.

## RIDICULOUS "TRUSTEESHIP" THEORY IS REVIVED BY PLATFORM MAKERS

Washington, April 17.—Republican party platform makers have revived the ridiculous theory that capitalists are "trustees" of their property, which they administer in the interests of the people.

In a questionnaire issued by the advisory committee on policies and platform of the Republican national committee this was asked:

> "What form of profit-sharing, if any, will promote thrift, co-operation and a better understanding of the function of the capitalist as trustee and administrator of wealth in the interests of the producers and consumers alike?"

This question was answered as Americans by Samuel Gompers, Matthew Woll and Frank Morrison, platform committee, national non-partisan campaign of the A. F. of L. The trade unionists said:

> "Is this question predicated upon a possible declaration of a national political party to the effect that employers are 'trustees and administrators of wealth in the interests of producers and consumers alike?' Surely this is interesting. By what right have they obtained trusteeship? By Divine Right? American labor entertains no such delusion. Trustees derive their authority from a principal who trusts them. 'Producers and consumers' have, so far as the records show, never agreed upon any 'trustee' of the character here suggested. The thrift section of the question should be kept distinct from the ridiculous assumption of capitalist trusteeship and is dealt with in reply to question 51.
>
> "Profit-sharing is not a device for the promotion of thrift and co-operation. It is a device for the entrenchment of privilege and for the subjection of workers. It is calculated to produce docility of spirit and to discourage organization among the workers. Without organization and without freedom of action among workers there can be no true and effective co-operation with employers for any of the objects which are worth while in industry. The capitalist who asks the workers to accept profit-sharing has no notion that he is acting in the capacity of a trustee in the administration of the property he possesses and the implication to that effect in the question is evidently a crude and clumsy effort to give standing and circulation to a misconception. Does the question imply the resurrection of the idea of the trusteeship of wealth which was believed to have been interred with the remains of the late George F. Baer?"

### WOMEN FIGHT ANTIS.

Little Rock, Ark., April 17.—Anti-trade union employers are up against troubles without number—the wives of trade unionists have entered the fight. The bosses are demanding individual bargaining and other features of the non-union shop. At a mass meeting of 20 women's trade union auxiliaries sizzling resolutions were passed against the chamber of commerce and other cheap labor advocates. Pledges were made by the women that they will not patronize any business man who is on the anti-trade union list, and that they will start a chain of letters to friends outside the city for the same purpose.

The women declare they will attempt to secure a branch office of some department store to locate in this city, and that they will buy by sample rather than patronize trade union antagonists.

Little Rock trade unionists have stood so loyal for the right to bargain collectively that the cry for peace is now being heard in quarters that were silent until the unionists showed their strength.

### PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Dayton, Ohio, April 17.—An increase of $1 a day for newspaper printers is the decision of an arbitration board. The new scale is $42 a week for day work and $45 for night work.

Toledo, Ohio, April 17.—Commercial shop members of the Typographical union have raised wages $5 a week, making the new rate $40.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, April 17.—The wage scale of Typographical union expires May 1 and these workers are discussing a rate of $55 for day work and $60 for night work.

### BLAME RABBIT CATCHERS.

New York, April 17.—Australian rabbit catchers are blamed for the high cost of men's hats.

Aaron Naumberg, president of the Hatters' Fur Cutters association, says he "has been advised" that these rabbit catchers "are earning as much as $160 a week."

To date, the accused have not filed a cross petition, as lawyers would say, and a wag has asked Mr. Naumberg if it takes a week to catch one rabbit.

### COSSACKS FOR OHIO?

Columbus, Ohio, April 17.—The need for continued vigilance on the part of trade unionists is shown in this state, where whispers are again heard that the state cossack plan will be resurrected.

Last year Ohio trade unionists defeated this proposal and they are ready to hand out the same dose.

### PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Tampa, Fla., April 17. — An hourly rate of $1 has been established by the Plumbers' union. Overtime up to midnight will be paid for at the rate of $1.50 an hour, and $2 thereafter and for Sunday work.

### KANSAS MINERS JAILED.

Pittsburg, Kan., April 17.—Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas coal miners, and three associate officials, were jailed for contempt of court by Judge Curran of Crawford county until such time as they would testify before the Kansas court of industrial relations. This court is empowered to set wages and working conditions under the Kansas "can't-strike" law. Howat made this statemnt:

"Our position is unchanged. We stand where we stood. We refuse to testify before this court because we do not recognize the court. It is an institution founded to enslave the working men."

Several thousand miners and other workers marched to the jail as a protest against the judge's action. The sheriff permitted Howat to address the crowd, and the unionist used the most bitter terms he could command in denouncing the governor and the legislature for passing the "can't-strike" law.

### BOLSHEVISM IN KANSAS.

New York, April 17.—Now that the Kansas legislature has accepted the bolshevist principle of compulsory labor, the New York World makes this suggestion to the sunflower state:

"The blissful confidence of some people that Governor Allen and the Kansas legislature had found in their compulsory arbitration law a sovereign remedy for industrial disturbances will be rudely shattered by the strike of 2,000 miners in the prairie coal fields.

"If Governor Allen will cast his eyes in the direction of Petrograd and Moscow he will discover that in his hasty adoption of the soviet principle of enforced labor he has missed several important steps. Lenine and Trotsky led up to this perfect fruitage of the dictatorship of the proletariat by gradual approaches. First of all they caught and militarised the workers, which is something that Kansas has not yet done. No court of industrial relations is likely to correct so fatal an oversight."

### SECURE GOOD CONTRACT.

San Francisco, April 17.—Organized cap makers and their employers almost reached the strike point, when they signed an agreement that is considered one of the best in this city. The minimum weekly wage of $22 is advanced to $22.50, with an additional $2 a week for all employes. The 44-hour week is included as is four holidays a year with full pay.

### WON'T MEET EMPLOYES.

Hamilton, Ontario, April 17.—Contractors have notified the Hamilton building trades council that it will not meet representatives of its employes to discuss wage conditions. The contractors believe in "free and independent workmen"—or, in other words, they want to bargain with each worker as an individual.

### PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Knoxville, Tenn., April 17.—The Painters' union has established an hourly rate of 75 cents. The old rate was 55 cents.

## SEAMEN DON'T FAVOR FEDERAL OWNERSHIP

San Francisco, April 17.—"Three groans for government ownership of the American merchant marine," suggests Editor Scharrenberg of the Seamen's Journal, who calls attention to a law passed by congress that hereafter a seaman employed on a government-owned vessel must sue the government for wages, shortage of food, compensation for injury due to defective appliances, or any other claim. Under private ownership the seaman can start legal proceedings against the vessel.

"The full meaning of this decision by the supreme court can hardly be realized by the landsman," says the Seamen's Journal.

"Ordinarily, the seaman knows little about the owner. He does know the vessel's name and the flag under which she sails. If he has any disagreement with the master over wages, or other matters, he can have the vessel libeled. Then, if his complaint is just, he has an even chance to win, because the vessel is there and so are his witnesses.

"Under the new law, a seaman must enter suit against the United States government. Here, at the very outset, he faces the prejudice which arises when a mere individual is suing the government.

"Then the case may be transferred, at the pleasure of the government's authorized spokesmen, to some other jurisdiction—away from the seaman, his witnesses and 'his wages' in dispute.

"Oh, yes, the average seaman will have a swell chance under the new system."

The Seamen's Journal also calls attention to the policy of the United States shipping board's legal bureau, which "has hatched out a few other novel schemes to safeguard the interests of the government as a ship owner."

"The government as a ship owner is going to be its own inspector and supervisor. Then, if safety rules interfere with dividends, why, the rules will be annulled.

"Many a hard-boiled private operator has made this perfectly plain. Yet every private operator of ships has been compelled to struggle along under both 'rules' and 'rights.'"

### DISCUSS CHINESE LABOR.

Chicago, April 17.—The Union Clay Worker, official magazine of the United Brick and Clay Workers of America, prints a number of expressions for and against Chinese labor in brick yards that were originally printed in a publication devoted to the interests of brick and clay material manufacturers.

The advocates of Chinese labor say: "The Chinese are used to heavy work and are not trouble makers."

The employers, however, are not a unit on the admission of Chinese laborers, and many strong dissents are registered. One employer says: "There are plenty of laboring people here to keep this country going. Let the corporations and employers of men get down and put their shoulder against the wheel and 'clip' the wings of the 'merchants'' association off real short, so that every time the employer gives the employe a raise in wages, it won't be taken from him by the merchants. With that corrected, harmony between employer and employe will remove the cause of strikes."

### FAIL TO REDUCE COSTS.

London, England, April 17.—Trade unionists who have hoped that living costs would be reduced, are confessing disappointment. Despite a strong anti-profiteering law from which much was expected, prices mount higher. As a part of this campaign workers have been urged to produce more, and a large number of responsible trade union executives joined in this movement. As a result of the failure to secure lower prices workers in practically every organized industry are asking for increased wages.

It is stated that on February 1 last living costs were 130 per cent higher than pre-war prices.

### ACTIVE IN NEW ORLEANS.

New Orleans, April 17.—Trade unionists in this city are determined to raise wages to the level of nearby cities. Printers have increased rates $7.50 to $10 a week; pressmen, $1 a day; longshoremen, to 90 cents an hour and structural iron workers to $1 an hour. A large number of other unions are preparing wage demands.

### VOTE IN PRIMARIES.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 17.—In urging trade unionists to take an active part in the primary elections, the Switchmen's Journal says:

"We should all be keenly interested in these matters, since none can escape from the ill effects of failure to perform our duties regarding such matters."

## OUTLAW RAIL STRIKE SHOWS FUNNY ANGLES

Washington, April 17.—While trade unionists condemn the irregular strike of railroad employes, they ask: "Do the railroad managers see in this outlaw strike a chance to split the railroad brotherhoods and destroy their future effectiveness?"

Trade unionists make the point that this strike possesses features unknown in any other extensive strike in this country. There has been no violence, and if strikers commit violence during a legitimate strike, trade unionists say, why are they law abiding during this outbreak? Or would the present situation justify the unionists' claims in other strikes that employers are behind the destruction of property and slugging of strikebreakers as an excuse for private police, deputy sheriffs, troops and injunctions?

This strike has been on for a fortnight and there was no call for troops, no violence reported and no screaming newspaper editorials that the strikers are attempting to defy the government and starve the public.

The government's action in this outlaw strike is in contrast to its activity before and during the recent miners' strike. For over a fortnight the attorney general has been "studying" the railroad strike, and has asked officials of two eastern railroads for a list of strikers and men who are leading the strike. Before the miners' strike was called Attorney General Palmer had secured a federal injunction against these workers, and newspapers became hysterical over the danger of people freezing to death.

In the miners' strike agents of the department of justice swarmed through the coal fields, and no public demand was made on the coal owners to assist the department.

Trade unionists are in sympathy with the grievances of the outlaws, but make strenuous objection to methods which would destroy discipline and regularity. The claim that "one big union" advocates caused the strike is urged by those who are blind to these grievances and who favor handcuffing workers to their jobs.

### BISBEE MOBBER POSES.

Tombstone, Ariz., April 17. — At the trial of Bisbee mobbers Harry C. Wheeler, former sheriff, testified that he was responsible for the deportation of 1,200 workers from Bisbee in July, 1917. The witness said he did not know who paid the expenses of the mobbers, and he did not give orders to his deputies that the men who were rounded up prior to deportation should be asked, "Are you willing to go to work?"

"I do not know what my deputies might have done," said the witness, who declared that the vast majority of the deported were "disloyal."

The former sheriff gave a negative answer to this question:

"Did you know that 62 of the men shipped out were soldiers and sailors, that 472 were registered for the draft, that 205 of them had bought liberty bonds, that 520 were subscribers for liberty bonds and that 266 were property owners in Bisbee?"

The witness acknowledged that he took no record of the men whom he deported and that he did not know their marital or other legal status. He stated that the selection of the men to be deported was left largely to the "initiative" of his deputies, who were acting under his "general instructions" as to the class of men to be run out of Bisbee.

The prosecution called attention to a report on the mobbing by a commission appointed by President Wilson. This commission said:

"The deportation was wholly illegal and without authority in law, either state or federal."

### SUGGESTIONS TO SPEAKERS.

Washington, April 17.—The A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee is forwarding suggestions to speakers who will explain the purposes and methods of this movement.

Speakers are urged to quote past results of organized labor's non-partisan policy, and to stress the fact that the A. F. of L. has urged non-partisan political action since its inception in 1881, and that this theory is now being generally accepted by other groups of citizens.

"The present reaction," it is stated, "is due to the fact that during the war labor was influenced by purely patriotic motives and set aside, for the time, all self interest, while the influences that have ever been opposed to democracy in industry never lost sight of possible class advantages, and, while ostensibly interested only in winning the war, took steps, politically, that have resulted in fully intrenching them in the law making, executive and judicial tribunals of our country."

### BUTCHERS ADVANCE.

Minneapolis, April 17.—Organized butchers and meat cutters report success in establishing their new agreement, which calls for improved working conditions.

Omaha, Neb., April 17.—Meat shop butchers were locked out after they offered to waive the union-shop section of their new agreement. The men asked that union conditions be observed, but this was refused. The bosses are demanding the non-union shop.

### MORE MONEY OR LESS OIL.

San Francisco, April 17.—Oil operators in this state will not produce more unless prices are increased, said President Kingsbury of the Standard oil company of California in a letter to the state railroad commission. The commission wants to know why the price of oil has increased, and Mr. Kingsbury blames the operators, who are on strike to raise prices.

In the meantime workers will again be called upon to produce more, and will be told that if they raise wages it means higher costs for everybody.

### ENGINEERS GAIN.

Sioux City, Iowa, April 17.—Stationary Steam and Operating Engineers' union No. 772 has raised wages 10 cents an hour. The rates range from 54 to 98 cents an hour, with a weekly minimum of $25.

### WANT UNION SHOP.

Sioux City, Iowa, April 17.—Street car employes ask for a union shop contract and wages increased to 50 and 45 cents an hour. The present rates are 33 to 43 cents an hour.

## DOLLAR POWER LOWER SAYS FEDERAL REPORT

Washington, April 17. — The United States federal trade commission is another group of investigators who have spiked the claim that high wages are responsible for high prices.

The commission says that the rapid rise in food prices is not so significant as "that the money income of large numbers have fallen far short of a proportional increase."

Attention is called to a report by the United States department of labor that the wages of trade unionists, in 1918, bought but 77 per cent as much food as in 1913.

"But this comparison," says the federal trade commission, "is for the wages of union labor. The large number of service incomes do not fall within this organized group and are much slower to respond to the pressure of a higher cost of living. Moreover, these incomes are for the same reason usually less in amount.

"It follows that for very large numbers of people receiving relatively small incomes, a week's wage in 1918 was purchasing much less than 77 per cent of the food it bought in 1913."

## LABOR PARTY IS PRAISED BY "BIG BIZ" NEWSPAPER

Denver, April 17.—The Denver trades and labor assembly has rejected the trade union non-partisan political policy and declares for a labor party.

The advocates of this plan are now put in an awkard position by a most indiscreet editorial in the Rocky Mountain News, in which the editor of this spokesman for "big business" tells tales out of school.

The editor makes no attempt to conceal his glee over this situation. "There is honesty and some degree of courage in this act," he says. "As between the Gompers method and the plan of a labor party proper, the latter is preferable for many reasons."

Defenders of the A. F. of L. non-partisan theory are asking when did the R. M. News qualify as an authority on trade union policy, and how can this sheet defend special interests and at the same time advise workers how to check these interests.

The Denver Labor Bulletin makes the blunt charge that if the labor party plan is carried out "there will be no trouble to find ways and means to finance such an enterprise."

### JOINING FEDERAL UNIONS.

Washington, April 17.—Government employes are joining the National Federation of Federal Employes "in squads, droves and platoons," as Dooley would say. During the last 10 days nine locals were formed, making a total of 172 charters issued. One of the new locals is at Aberdeen, Md., where 412 war department employes signed the charter roll.

Officials of the federation say the stimulus to organization is the critical need by government workers all over the country of better pay and the correction of inequalities and disadvantages attending government service. As the federation extends in numerical strength it is believed congress will consider the immediate necessity for the federation's legislative program.

"This program," it is stated, "includes the Nolan bill providing a minimum wage of $3 a day for government employes, the Stirling-Lehlbach bill for retirement of the superannuated employes, and equitable readjustment and reclassification of all salaries with due regard to the increased cost of living and the skill and training required for the position, and a central administrative agency to control and administer the civil service. In other words, an enlarged civil service commission, in the membership of which the employes shall have representation."

### CALLS FOR PUBLICITY.

Washington, April 17.—"Save the service by pitiless publicity on postal service," is the call issued by Union Postal Clerk, official magazine of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

"Congress will enact the needed corrective measures to restore service efficiency when public opinion demands it," says this publication.

"The postal service belongs to the people of the United States. They should know all the facts relating to postal employment—the numerous resignations, the inadequate pay and the irksome working conditions. Individual personal letters to members of congress, which is an exercise of your right of direct petition to congress, mass meetings by all postal employes, parades, appeals to civic, commercial, religious, labor and other organized bodies, the utilization of every proper agency to arouse public opinion," are suggested.

### FIGHTING TUBERCULOSIS.

New York, April 17.—"If we are to wipe out tuberculosis it will be through the children, not by curing them of tuberculosis, but by preventing them getting it," said Dr. John S. Billings, director of the New York tuberculosis association.

"This can be accomplished," he said, "by improving the home conditions, by keeping the children away from the sick person, by improving the general health of the children through better food, exercise, fresh air and sunlight; by having the children examined at frequent intervals to detect the first signs of a beginning of tuberculosis; by sending them to fresh-air schools."

### WIN UNION SHOP.

Portland, Ore., April 17.—A union-shop agreement has been signed by the Meat Cutters' union and the Retail Market Men's association. The minimum weekly scale is $28. There is a strong sentiment in this city for soviet control of industry by a crowd of cheap labor business men who demand the non-union shop and individual bargaining, but the market men stand for democracy in industry.

### MANY AGED WORKERS.

Washington, April 17.—It is stated that in one division of the United States pension office there are 60 clerks out of a total of 112 clerks who are 70 years of age and over, and who are eligible for retirement under the pension bill passed by the senate and now pending in the house.